

Subject: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract

Date: Sun, 09 May 2004 20:53:53 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

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Mayor & Council:

I am troubled by the way in which this item has been handled. As a locally-owned and operated business with a long history in the community, IPI has provided outstanding service to North Shore residents. While Waste Management came in as the lowest bidder on the contract, I am not convinced that the company will provide the same level of quality service that we have come to expect from IPI. Although Waste Management has a lowest bid, I think other, equally important, non-monetary factors should enter into the equation.

More than the bidding process and my concerns about Waste Management, however, I believe that Staff has placed you in an untenable position over this contract. Just like the switch from clear plastic bags to paper (for yard waste), NVD is once again the last of the three municipalities to consider the matter. The other two had already decided so we had to meekly follow along behind. To borrow an analogy from Councillor McKeon-Holmes, the District seems to always be the caboose bringing-up the rear on the tri-municipal train. Is this deliberate? NVD is the largest North Shore municipality and should be leading the way forward.

Staff's "recommendation" on the recycling contract wasn't any such thing. A recommendation implies options. In this instance -- like other changes put forward by NS Recycling -- Council has not been given any time and is told that because the City and West Van have already decided, we have no choice in the matter. This is simply unacceptable. Council and the CAO should be more vigilant and demand that Staff bring forward such contracts, or changes to the yard waste and recycling program, with enough time to legitimately pursue options.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts